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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/808,651	03/25/2004	Satoshi Natsume	1232-5356	6111

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EXAMINER	
WANG, KENT F	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
04/15/2008	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/808,651	NATSUME, SATOSHI	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	KENT WANG	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *14 March 2008*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-3 and 5-10* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3 and 5-10* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 03/14/2008 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. The amendments, filed on 02/19/2008, have been entered and made of record. Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3 and 5-10 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) or rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-3 and 5-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hirasawa, US 5,436,684.

Regarding claim 1, Hirasawa discloses a drive controlling apparatus (inner focusing type lens system, Fig 1) for controlling a drive of a plurality of optical adjusting members (zoom lens 102, iris 103, and focus lens 105) included in an optical system of an optical apparatus (a video camera), comprising:

- a memory (a microcomputer 119, Fig 5) storing preset drive information (speed information) of each of the optical adjusting members (102, 103, and 105) which include a preset speed and a preset position (preset position and preset speed of the focus lens and zoom lens) (col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 29);
- a controller (a microcomputer 119, Fig 5) performing a preset drive control for controlling the drive of each of the optical adjusting members (102, 103, and 105) on the basis of the preset drive information (preset position and preset speed of the focus lens and zoom lens), the controller performing the preset drive control so as to include a state in which the plurality of the optical adjusting members are simultaneously driven (a proper lens control can be performed while maintaining a miniaturization of the lens without enlarging an actuator of the lens) (col. 4, lines 58-68 and col. 6, lines 41-68); and
- a selection member (a microcomputer 119, Fig 5) being operated for selecting a set condition of drive speeds of the plurality of optical adjusting members (102,

103, and 105) out of a plurality of set conditions (col. 6, lines 14-22, col. 7, lines 9-13, and col. 20, lines 21-26),

- wherein the controller (119) sets the drive speeds in the preset drive control (actuators 107, 108, and 109 to drive the zoom lens, iris and focus lens according the speed information stored in 119) in accordance with the set condition selected with the selection member (drivers 110, 111, and 112, Fig 5) (col. 5, line 63 to col. 6, line 19);
- wherein one of the plurality of set conditions is to set the drive speed (zoom speed setting) of a first optical adjusting member (zooming lens, 102, Fig 5) out of the plurality of optical adjusting members (zoom lens 102, iris 103, and focus lens 105) to the preset speed stored in the memory (speed information has been stored as a table in the microcomputer 119, Fig 5), and to set the drive speed (focus lens speed adjustment) of a second optical adjusting member (focusing lens, 105, Fig 5) calculated from the drive speed of the first optical adjusting member (102) such that the drive of the plurality of optical adjusting members (102, 103, and 105) up to the preset position stored in the memory (a driving speed of the focus lens is determined with reference to the table on the basis of those position information) are is substantially simultaneously completed (S110 is a step to execute a program for setting a prepared temporary zoom speed and for using the temporary zoom speed for the adjustment of the moving speed of the focus lens, Fig 6) (col. 5, line 52 to col. 7, line 19, Hirasawa).

Regarding claim 2, Hirasawa discloses one of the plurality of set conditions (reference numerals 110, 111, and 112 denote drivers to generate energies for driving the actuators 107, 108, and 109 in response to drive commands, respectively; and 113, 114, and 115 encoders for detecting states of the zooming lens group 102, iris 103, and focusing lens group 105, namely, positions, movement amounts, and the like of them, for converting into electric signals) is to set the drive speed of each optical adjusting member (zooming lens, 102 and focusing lens, 105, Fig 5) to a maximum speed at which the optical adjusting member can be driven (when the zoom magnification is raised while suppressing the size of lens barrel, the gradient on the telephoto side suddenly increases, therefore to trace it with a high fidelity, the maximum speed at which the actuator of the focus lens can drive and improved with an increase in zoom magnification) (col. 5 line 63 to col. 6, line 19 and col. 6, lines 30-40).

Regarding claim 3, Hirasawa discloses one of the plurality of set conditions (drive control of the zooming lens group 102, iris 103, and focusing lens group 105) is to set the drive speed of each optical adjusting member (102, 103, and 105) to a preset speed stored in the memory (the speed information of each zoom zone in Fig 3 has been stored as a table in the microcomputer 119) (col. 6, lines 20-29).

Regarding claim 5, the limitations of claim 1 are taught above, Hirasawa discloses one of the plurality of set conditions is to set a first drive speed (zoom speed setting) of the first optical adjusting member (zooming lens, 102, Fig 5) out of the plurality of optical adjusting members (102, 103, and 105) to a preset speed (speed information stored as a table in the microcomputer 119, Fig 5), the first drive speed (zoom speed setting) being a speed at which the drive of the first optical adjusting member (102) is most quickly completed when the first

optical adjusting member (102) is driven up to a preset position at the preset speed stored in the memory, and to set the drive speed of the second optical adjusting member (memory position preset zoom switch 21, speed preset zoom switch 22, and the boomerang zoom switch 23) such that the drive of the plurality of optical adjusting members up to the preset positions stored in the memory (step S108, Fig 6) are substantially simultaneously completed (after completion of the execution, the result of the calculation is stored in step S108 and the processing routine is returned to step S102) (col. 7, lines 1-19 and lines 52-68).

Regarding claim 6, the limitations of claim 1 are taught above, Hirasawa discloses one of the plurality of set conditions is to set a first drive speed (zoom speed setting) of the first optical adjusting member (zooming lens, 102, Fig 5) out of the plurality of optical adjusting members (102, 103, and 105) to the preset speed (speed information stored as a table in the microcomputer 119, Fig 5), the first drive speed being a speed at which the drive of the first optical adjusting member (102) is most slowly completed when the first optical adjusting member (102) is driven up to the preset position at the preset speed stored in the memory (step S108, Fig 6), respectively, and to set the drive speed (focus lens speed adjustment) of the second optical adjusting member (focusing lens, 105, Fig 5) such that the drive of the plurality optical adjusting members up to preset positions stored in the memory (step S108, Fig 6) are substantially simultaneously completed (after completion of the execution, the result of the calculation is stored in step S108 and the processing routine is returned to step S102) (col. 7, lines 1-19 and lines 52-68).

Regarding claim 7, the limitations of claim 1 are taught above, Hirasawa discloses a characteristic setting member (microcomputer 119, Fig 5) for variably setting the drive

characteristic of the optical adjusting member (camera having an inner focusing type lens system which having a variable speed zoom function) at least one of the start time or at the completion time in the preset drive control (102 the zooming lens group can variably change a magnification and 105 the focusing lens group having a function to correct the movement of a focal plane in association with the variable magnification and a focus adjusting function) (col. 5, lines 52-62, col. 8, lines 19-25 and Fig 6).

Regarding claim 8, this claim recites same limitations as claim 1. Thus it is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 9, this claim differs from claim 1 only in that the claim 9 includes a camera attached with the optical apparatus. Hirasawa discloses an image-taking system (a photographing apparatus) comprising a camera (a video camera) attached with the optical apparatus (an inner focusing type lens system) (see col. 1, lines 10-12 and col. 6, lines 30-40). Thus claim 9 is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respected to claim 1 above.

Regarding claim 10, this claim recites same limitations as claim 9. Thus it is analyzed and rejected as previously discussed with respect to claim 9 above.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Makino et al. (US 4,735,494), Tanaka (US 6,967,686), Kubo et al. (US 6,822,686), Yoshikawa et al. (US 6,633,729), and Ohta (US 6,989,865).

Inquiries

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kent Wang whose telephone number is 571-270-1703. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 A.M. - 5:30 PM (every other Friday off).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ngoc Yen Vu can be reached on 571-272-7320. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-270-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

KW
3 April 2008

/Timothy J Henn/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2622